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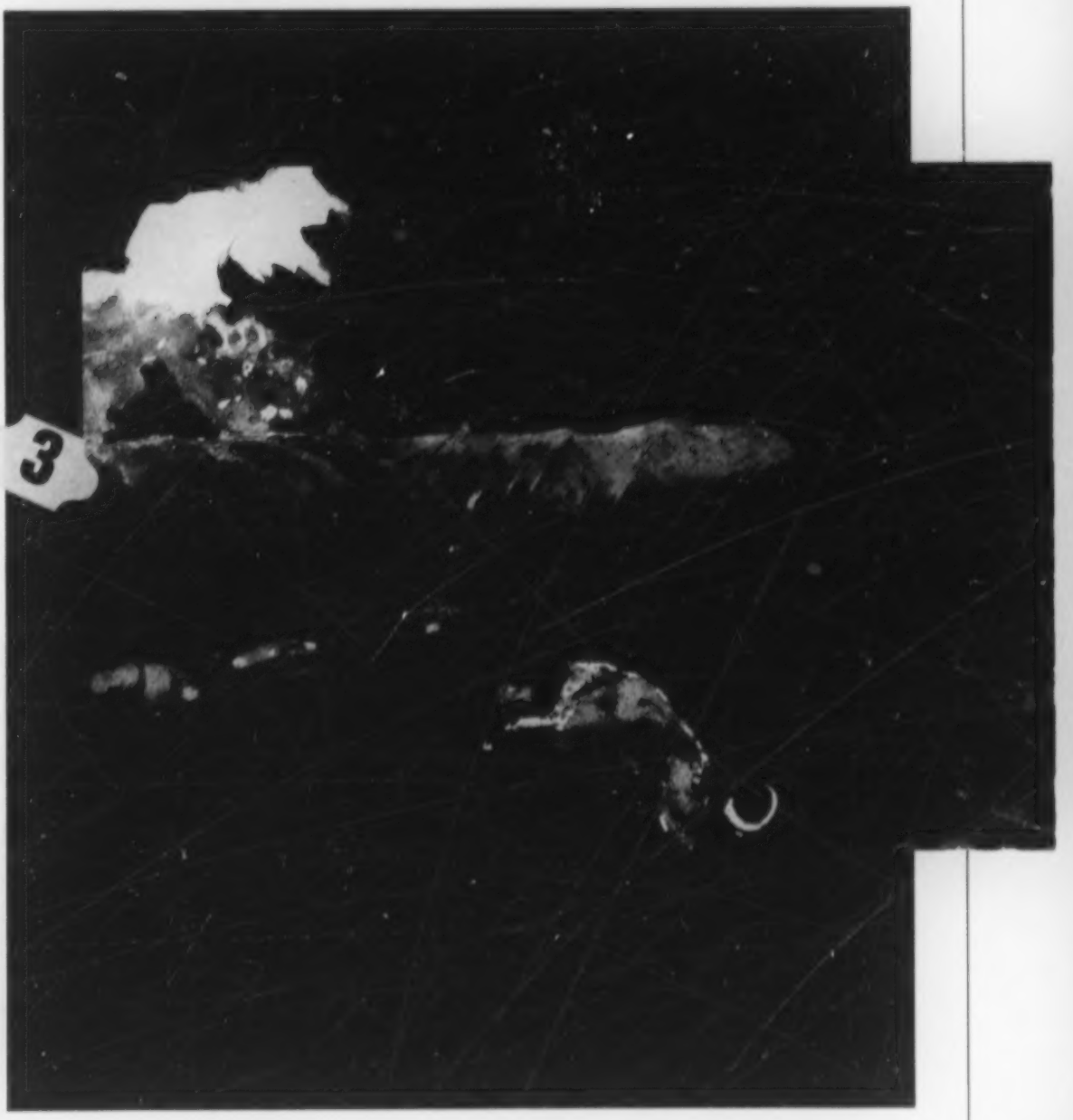

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About the Cover

"Hunting Dog Among Dead Trees" was painted in 1894 by American artist Winslow Homer (1863–1910). Homer apprenticed as a lithographer and, during the Civil War, became a pictorial reporter, contributing sketches to *Harper's Weekly*. Best known as a painter of American genre scenes, seascapes, and landscapes, he was especially noted as a watercolorist, in which medium he achieved remarkable effects of light, color, and atmosphere. In "Hunting Dog Among Dead Trees", these effects are especially evident, as Homer adroitly revealed the woodland darks, cool shadows, and bright glints of light inspired by hunting and fishing trips taken after he settled on the coast of Maine in the mid-1880s.

Reproduction of this 15⅛ × 21½-inch watercolor on paper (21.1432, Gift of William Sturgis Bigelow) was made possible through the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

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VBPA

On day 8, when the dog was discharged, he was eating and drinking well, weighed 13.2 kg, and did not have ascites.

Histologically, masses were determined to be organized thrombi, and the pericardium had focal fibrosis, internal hemosiderin deposition, and fibrin deposition. Bacteria or fungi were not isolated from specimens of the masses or the pericardium. Idiopathic hemorrhagic pericardial effusion with organized thrombi was diagnosed. The dog was healthy 3 months after surgery.

Idiopathic hemorrhagic pericardial effusion is characterized by a thick pericardium attributable to focal pericardial inflammation and neovascularization with deposition of fibrin.[6] Usually, the accumulation of blood in the pericardial space is slow and progressive, resulting in a long duration between recurrences of cardiac tamponade.[6,7] The pericardial fluid has the characteristics of noninflammatory chronic hemorrhage[8,9] and usually does not clot or contain thrombi. However, thrombi may be found in dogs with acute, severe intrapericardial hemorrhage.[10] Therefore, the presence of thrombi in the pericardial fluid and the recurrence of effusion 24 hours after centesis may have been a reflection of the severity of the disease process.

The echocardiographic findings led us to include hemangiosarcoma of the right atrial and ventricular walls in our list of differential diagnoses.[1] The possibility of chemodectoma was considered less likely because of the lack of involvement of the ascending aorta.[1] However, hemangioscarcomas tend to invade the adjacent myocardium and right atrial lumen.[11,12] Myocardial involvement by the masses was difficult to assess, but masses were not seen in the lumen of the right atrium of this dog. The ectopic ventricular complexes on the electrocardiogram did not indicate or rule out the possibility that the masses involved the myocardium. Rather, these ectopic complexes probably were the expression of an escape phenomenon concomitant with increased vagal tone, characterized by a pronounced sinus arrhythmia and a Wenckebach-type second-degree atrioventricular block.

These findings indicate that masses found on the right atrial wall are not always neoplastic and that pericardiectomy and biopsy are needed for a definitive diagnosis.[1]

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Correction: 1985 incomes of US veterinarians

In an economic note entitled "1985 incomes of US veterinarians" (JAVMA, May 15, 1987, pp 1333–1337), by J. Karl Wise, the 1985 median individual net income of US veterinarians in private practice was reported in text as $37,730. The figure should have been in agreement with that cited in Table 2 of the economic note, $37,082. The author regrets the error.